Poor mobile phone service

2333. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several districts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly, Hyderabad are facing great difficulties due to poor mobile phone service of BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir. Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provide by BSNL is working satisfactorily in all Districts of Andhra Pradesh including Hyderabad, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Capping on the number of service providers

2334. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of reference, if any, made by Government to TRAI with regards to capping on the number of service providers based on limitation of spectrum, citing Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) judgment dated 31 March, 2009;

(b) whether Government is seeking a cap on number of Unified Access Service (UAS) licenses due to shortage of spectrum;

(c) whether Government has revealed publicly how much spectrum is available in each circle before making such a reference; and

(d) whether Government proposes to change its policy to overcome the judicial decision in S. Tel matter of July 2009 that has held the cut off date 25 September, 2007 illegal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Hon'ble TDSAT (Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal), in para 116 of its judgment dated 31.3.2009, in Petition No. 286 of 2007 in the matter of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and Others *Vs.* Union of India and Others, has observed that DoT (Department of Telecom) would be well advised to review the policy of no capping keeping in view the various relevant parameters and take an appropriate decision. In view of above observation of Hon'ble TDSAT and scarcity of spectrum, on 22.07.2009, Government has sought recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the policy of no capping on the number of Access Service providers in each service area in terms of pending applications.